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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP/UNCDF ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

IPF:(1992-96) $27 000 000
(CAF/91/C03) - Mise en valeur du Setteur de l'eau en Republique Centrafricaine

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	16 December 1992
Expected duration:	48 months
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Directorate of Water Resources
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 746 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$3 711 000 Source of funds: General Resources
Total UNDP budget:	$6 163 300

Project background

In its most recent plan for economic and social development (1986-1990), the Government of the Central African Republic put the improvement of health conditions and the drastic reduction of infant mortality, particularly in rural areas, among its highest priorities. The strategy adopted is to improve the health of urban and rural populations by increasing the availability of good-quality drinking water. The National Water and Sanitation Committee aims to reach a coverage of 60 percent in urban and at least 50 percent in rural areas before the year 2000. Its priorities are to: (1) maintain existing production systems; and (2) where new systems are built, to integrate them with other rural development activities. It is the mandate of the Water Directorate to transform these objectives into operational programmes and projects.

UNDP has been helping the National Water and Sanitation Committee and the Water Directorate since 1984 through two projects by providing training and institutional support in the areas of geophysics hydrogeology and in the elaboration of a rural water supply action plan. The present approval is an adequate combination of UNDP technical funding and UNCDF investment inputs for producing maximum impact for rural populations; and also constitutes the operating framework for a national water resources management strategy.

Description of project

The development objectives of the project are to: (a) prepare a strategy document with an action plan for the harmonious and integrated development of national water resources till year 2000 linking donors project proposals to the plan; (b) capture a permanent supply of good-quality drinking water in sufficient quantity to the villages of the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye; (c) establish accompanying sanitary conditions, community participation and health education, more particularly in direction of women.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) prepare a strategy document for an integrated and environmentally-safe development of water resources in the Central African Republic addressing all the different uses of water (rural and urban drinking water supply, pastoral and agricultural hydraulics, industrial, hydro-electrical and other uses, such as navigation) and linking the above to the availability of donor funding in the water sector; (b) construct protected boreholes equipped with easily operated hand-pumps providing drinking water to 105,000 inhabitants in rural areas covering some 350 locations, and covering thus 50 percent of estimated total needs for the Prefectures of Lobaye and Ombella M'Poko; (c) establish a self-sufficient and sustainable system of operation and maintenance of the boreholes and of the pumps, by means of appropriate sensibilisation and sanitary education actions for the rural population, and a regional network of village-level maintenance and repair facilities with distribution of pump spare parts and eventually sparepart fabrication, depending on the results of a feasibility study; and (d) increase the number of latrines by at least 20 percent and construction about 100 dry latrines with concrete platform in selected locations (health centres, schools, markets).

Project activities will include: (a) evaluation of the capacities of the selected villages to participate in different project activities and identification and training of villagers responsible for the maintenance and repair of handpumps; (b) conducting hydrogeological and geophysical investigations for siting most favourable borehole locations, drilling and equipment of boreholes and handpump installation together with groundwater data collection; (c) dissemination of appropriate technologies for individual traditional sanitation and construction of 100 dry latrines with concrete platform at selected locations such as health centers, schools and markets; (d) launching a programme of sanitary education and sensibilisation concerning elementary hygiene and environmental concepts; and (e) reconciliation of users' needs, available water resources and donor financing, by taking account of the relevant technical, socio-economic institutional and financial constraints.

Inputs

UNDP will provide one hydraulic engineer (CTA) (36 work-months), one UNV driller, one UNV pump maintenance specialist, one UNV for logistics and maintenance for project duration, six short-term consultancies (10 work-months); three drivers; one administrative assistant and two national socio-economic experts; travel costs for field operations and missions; three short-term training sessions; one fellowship in water resources management (12 work-months); on-site training for community maintenance personnel; and miscellaneous costs.

UNCDF will finance a complete drilling brigade with accessories and drilling/borehole equipment; a construction contract and materials; 350 handpumps; all vehicles for project field work; operation, maintenance and miscellaneous costs.

The Government will supply the project with national experts, basic field personnel, one drilling rig and accessories, offices, telephone, water and electricity.

Financial data

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	UNCDF	UNDP
Missions	80 000	-
Personnel	-	1 285 000
Subcontract	70 000	-
Training	-	220 000
Equipment	2 261 000	38 000
Construction equipment	170 000	-
Operations/maintenance	565 000	-
Support costs (AOS + prog. support)	320 100	163 000
Contingencies	245 300	-
Miscellaneous	-	40 000
Total	3 711 400	1 746 000